

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 083918
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /010 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:JBOARDMAN:FLW
APPROVED BY EA - MR. GLEYSSTEEN
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
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-----141818Z 075024 /42

O 141757Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 083918

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
EYES ONLY FOR HOLBROOKE FROM GLEYSSTEEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN FRASER

TEXT OF APRIL 13 LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN FRASER TO THE
SECRETARY FOLLOWS:

QUOTE I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS SERIOUS CONCERN OVER SOME
PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE IN SEOUL THIS WEEK BY RICHARD C.
HOLBROOKE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EAST ASIAN AND
PACIFIC AFFAIRS.

ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS CONFIRMED BY STATE DEPARTMENT
OFFICIALS, MR. HOLBROOKE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH
CURRENT RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, INDICATED
PERSONAL PLEASURE OVER BEING ABLE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THAT
NATION, DISCLOSED THAT HE HAD NOT MENTIONED HUMAN RIGHTS
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DURING HIS MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, AND NOTED
MERELY THAT THE UNITED STATES 'HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED ITS
CONCERN ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN KOREA.'

THESE STATEMENTS RUN DIRECTLY COUNTER TO ASSURANCES MADE TO
ME RECENTLY BY MR. HOLBROOKE OF SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS
INITIATIVES TOWARD SOUTH KOREA. THE STATEMENTS ALSO CONTRA-

DICT THE SPIRIT AND LETTER OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S CAMPAIGN

RHETORIC. I ACCEPTED THE WORDS OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND MR. HOLBROOKE IN GOOD FAITH, IN THE HOPE THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AT LAST WOULD ADOPT A POLICY OF FIRMNESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH KOREA WHICH I WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPORT. INSTEAD, THE RECORD OF THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM THAT OF PRESIDENTS NIXON AND FORD: SECURITY INTERESTS PRECLUDING CUTS IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE; AN INCREASE IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE; MINIMIZATION OF CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS; AND OBSEQUIOUS CORDIALITY ABOUT KOREAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. GIVEN THE LOW PRIORITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS APPARENT IN THESE ACTIONS, THE PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS ONLY SERVES TO LIMIT MORE SEVERELY THE LEVERAGE THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH MIGHT EXERCISE, EVEN WITH THE WILL TO DO SO. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I FIND IT EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT TO ACQUIESCE IN SILENCE.

I WISH TO CONVEY MY STRONG DESIRE TO MEET WITH YOU AND MR. HOLBROOKE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER HIS RETURN SO THAT WE MAY DISCUSS THIS MATTER.

WITH BEST WISHES, I AM SINCERELY YOURS, DONALD M. FRASER,
UNQUOTE
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE083918
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JBOARDMAN:FLW
Enclosure: EYES ONLY FOR HOLBROOKE
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770130-0076
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770456/aaaabwty.tel
Line Count: 87
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2d3023a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS, ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS, ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2804205
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN FRASER TEXT OF APRIL 13 LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN FRASER TO THE SECRETARY FOLLOWS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, KS, US, (FRASER, DONALD M), (HOLBROOKE, RICHARD C)
To: JAKARTA
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2d3023a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009